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LETTER DATED 13 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement by His Excellency Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerning the recent campaign of the United States Government against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the recent desperate campaign of the United States Government against the Islamic Republic of Iran

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The irrational and desperate diplomatic gestures which have recently been adopted by the United States Government towards the Islamic Republic of Iran are the results of a fundamental mistake made by the United States Government when the Islamic revolution achieved victory in 1979 - a mistake which has continued ever since. The truth is that the United States Government failed to understand the nature and the dimensions of the Islamic revolution in Iran, hence through inappropriate postures laid the foundation for a confrontation between the United States and a great divine revolution and even the entire Muslim world, a revolution which accomplished a great victory with invaluable unity among Iranian people and in the light of their massive support attracted the backing of millions of Muslims and oppressed people all around the world, notwithstanding the dominance of a dictatorial regime in Iran at that time and despite the huge support it received from imperialists and Zionists. With these valuable assets, numerous obstacles and conspiracies during the revolutionary period were successfully overcome. The following eight years of sacred and single-handed defence in the face of vast military aggression by the Iraqi regime, backed by Western and Eastern as well as wealthy oil-rich countries and intensive biased coverage by Western news agencies, proved to be yet another success. Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran established the veracity of its position in the United Nations, which lacked a record of fair dealing with the Islamic revolution, and today it is pursuing its reconstruction and development plans with great success.

The expectation was that the so-called "democratic" administration of the United States in 1979 would demonstrate its comprehension of the Islamic revolution, at least by refraining from creating hindrance and by expressing its regret for the actions by the United States Government in the past. Regrettably, however, meddling and reckless trouble-making by the United States, which are reminders of the colonialist arrogant behaviour of the past, have continued unabated. Instead of attempting to rectify previous mistakes, American officials embarked on a series of irrational actions, including the confiscation and blocking of Iranian assets in the United States, the severance of relationship, the failed aggression on Iran's territory in Tabas, orchestrating military coups, recruiting local terrorists and saboteurs, provoking the Iraqi regime to invade Iran, and initiating a massive wave of mischievous propaganda against the Islamic revolution in Iran in order to mislead public opinion. They even dared to speak of drying out the roots of the grand Iranian nation with its age-old civilization.

Apparently, recurrent failures in implementing these policies have augmented the United States Government's fury rather than making it revise its policies. As a result, it continues to behave immaturely by charging Iran with baseless accusations, thereby enlarging the scope of its illegal and

unsuccessful campaign. Accusations, such as producing and stockpiling chemical weapons and trying to develop nuclear weapons and building up conventional arms, are concocted apparently in order to frighten Iran's neighbours, justify an illegitimate foreign military presence in the Persian Gulf, and impose a costly and unnecessary arms sale to the countries of the region.

Allegations currently propagated by the United States are so obviously baseless that they can hardly even convince those who advance them. The accusation of producing chemical weapons is being made against Iran, which in eight years of defence against Iraq's large-scale use of chemical weapons and its many other violations including brutal attacks against residential areas and civilian aircraft, always observed humanitarian principles and refrained from retaliation in kind. The accusation that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons is equally groundless. As has been repeatedly verified by the observers of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has fulfilled all its international commitments with respect to nuclear non-proliferation. Furthermore, whereas numerous terrorist attacks have been inflicted on the Islamic revolution by criminals who freely continue their activities in the United States, Iran is being accused of supporting terrorism. Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran represents a revolution initiated and continued by the will of people and which, unlike other contemporary revolutions, established, immediately after its victory, an administration based on popular referenda and elections, Iran is being charged with dictatorship and violations of human rights. Needless to say that these allegations are mainly propagated by a Government which has been the primary supporter and sponsor of Israel's State-sponsored terrorism, of its aggressive policies, and of its production of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and has also backed despotic Governments which have not experienced parliamentarianism, consultation and elections in their political life even for a single day.

It is unclear how much credence the American officials accord to the wisdom of people throughout the world when they seek to present their aggressive push to sell weapons to others as a service to peace, democracy and human rights, or when they seek to preserve their illegitimate and colonial interests in the region by portraying the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has since its inception but followed a policy of good neighbourly relations and forbearance vis-à-vis its neighbours, as a threat or an obstruction.

It may not be far from reality to think that, as a consequence of the American campaign of misinformation, which has regrettably misled a considerable portion of American public opinion concerning this region and Iran, American officials have sunk in a self-made quagmire, and in order to rescue themselves from it they repeatedly adopt erroneous decisions which in themselves render their task increasingly more difficult. Or perhaps partisan politics is at work and the rival party has set a dangerous trap for the current administration as a bridge for victory emanating from the Congress, which is their new stronghold. Whatever the reason for the current provocations, American policy makers need to revisit their misconceptions, misdeeds, and their historic errors.

Undoubtedly, the announcement of a prohibition of trade on the part of the United States with a large country like Iran, with vast natural resources,

significant potential and a large foreign relations network, cannot be considered a consequential event for the economy of the country.

Continuation of some commercial trade may have deceived them, but a little reflection makes it abundantly clear that this cooperation was not out of urgency but could have other reasons. A case in point is the disclosure of the American dual policy, which reserves for itself the prerogative to engage in commercial trade with Iran while disallowing others to do the same. It seeks to put pressure on its competitors, though in a clumsy fashion, to discontinue their trade with Iran and, contrary to all principles and norms, expects them to forgo their respective legitimate interests and profits. It appears as if American officials are unwilling to accept the primarily exclusive arms market and lucrative projects in other oil-rich countries of the region along with losing the Iranian market as a package. Indeed, it is these dual policies which erode any confidence in the United States in the long term.

It is another big mistake if American officials view pressuring Iran as a means of achieving their objectives in imposing an unjust peace on Palestinian people. They should seek the reasons for the failure of such a scheme in the unfair provisions of the accord, which is silent on the root causes of the problem. For instance, no solution is offered to relieve millions of Palestinian refugees; their strong national, Islamic and human sentiments, which have been savagely suppressed for half a century, have not been positively addressed; their unforgettable dream of returning to their homeland and the exercise of their inalienable rights have been neglected; decades of jihad and struggle, and suffering their loss of thousands of lives and other essential questions of this sort, have remained unanswered in the accord.

If a mere expression of opposition to the process on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran is so effective that even in the absence of any practical measure it can paralyse the process which enjoys the full support of big and small Powers, would it not be appropriate to revise the nature of behaviour towards this source of influence and strength?

The formulators of the recent American provocations should realize that their recent adventurism, like their irrational policies of the last 16 years vis-à-vis Iran, will bear no fruit for the United States. Under such circumstances, in the light of the economic problems in the United States and considering the prevailing situation in the international market, the greatest loss will be directed at the economic interests of that country. Fully aware of the power of Islam and Iran, as the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran I underline the reality that today Iran, relying on its potential, human resources, a devoted, politically aware and active public, a stable system and a geo-strategic location, is no place for new American adventurism. Iran can easily terminate the existing economic relations whenever it deems appropriate, while continuing its reconstruction programme full force. Such illegal and irrational acts of provocation by the United States Government can only lead to regional instability and disruption in a healthy international political and economic relation.